Oil refinery in Assam

2153. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the location of the proposed oil refinery in Assam is against the preference of the Planning Commission who are of the view that the right place for setting up a refinery is near the centre of consumption of refined products rather than that of production of crude;

(b) if so, what are the details of the site and what are the considerations in details on which the proposed oil refinery in Assam was decided; and

(c) whether the said refinery is likely to be set up during the Seventh or Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (c) Oil refineries are set up on the basis of several techno-economic considerations including production centres, consumption zones, transportation logistics etc. No decision regarding the setting up an oil refinery in Assam has been taken so far. The details of the site etc. at this stage do not arise.

Madras High Court

2154. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies are there to be filled up in Madras High Court as on date;

(b) the date on which each vacancy has caused;

(c) whether it is a fact that lawyers throughout Tamil Nadu have boycotted courts protesting against the filling up of the vacancies in Madras High Court;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a writ petition was filed in the past in the Madras High Court regarding the delay in filling up the vacancies in the High Court; and

(e) whether Government are considering to fill up the vacancies in Madras High Court; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) There are at present 4 vacancies of Judges in the Madras High Court, which arose on the following dates:—

Sl. No.	Date
1	15.9.1983
2	22.10.1983
3	25.1.1984
4	1.6.1985

(c) The factual position is being ascertained.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter of filling up of vacancies of Judges in Madras High Court is engaging the attention of the Government. It is not possible to indicate the date by which the vacancies would be filled up.

Industrial collaboration agreements with Japanese firms

2155. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of industrial collaboration agreements signed between Indian and Japanese firms for public and private sectors

in the years 1984-85 and 1985-86, year-wise;

(b) how many such projects have been signed for the agricultural sector during the period;

(c) the states to whom these projects have been distributed; and

(d) how many more much projects with Japanese collaboration are expected to be signed in the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The statistical information regarding Foreign Collaborations is maintained calender year-wise. 78 and 108 proposals for foreign collaboration with Japanese firms were approved by Government during the years 1984 and 1985 respectively. The details of all approved foreign collaborations showing the names of Indian and Foreign firms, item of manufacture and nature of collaboration are published on a quarterly basis by Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to its Monthly News Letter. Copies of this publication are sent regularly to Parliament Library.

(d) As approvals are in response to proposals made, no projection is possible.

Loss suffered due to gas flaring

2156. SHRI YELLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50 per cent of gas is being flared due to lack of equipment for the last 5-6 years and if so, total losses suffered in terms of retail domestic consumer sale price; and

(b) whether Government will fix responsibility in the matter by appointing a Parliamentary Inquiry Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir; Natural Gas is not being flared due to non-availability of bottling equipment for which adequate capacity is available in the country. Natural gas cannot be compressed and stored in cylinders economically like LPG and supplied to retail consumers. It is being flared for reasons such as inadequate compression facilities offshore, inadequate infrastructural facilities downstream, failure of consumers to lift the committed offtake, safey reasons, etc. The total quantity of natural gas that was flared during the year 1984-85, for which figures are available, is 3052 million cubic metres. The notional value of this gas computed at the rate of Rs. 100 per thousand cubic metres, the lowest rate charged within the country, is Rs. 30.52 crores.

(b) No, Sir; with the installation of additional compressors and supply of gas to more consumers, the situation will improve considerably in the coming months.

Fertilizer plants based on HBJ gas Pipeline

2157. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of fertilizer plants likely to be served by the proposed HBJ gas pipeline;

(b) what is the capital outlay and the expected dates of their completion; and

(c) what is the loss of time and money spent and loss of production due to delay in the execution of HBJ gas pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The HBJ Gas pipeline will cater to the feedstock requirements of six